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09/982,429	10/18/2001	Jason Barrow	G03.022	6673

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EXAMINER

BONSHOCK, DENNIS G

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2173

DATE MAILED: 04/20/2004

3

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/982,429

Applicant(s)

BARROW, JASON

Examiner

Dennis G Bonshock

Art Unit

2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 October 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 October 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Drawings***

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the representation of the at least one and less than all of sub-steps preceding the selected sub-step must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.
2. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:  

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.
4. Claims 1, 13, 15, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted structural cooperative relationships are: stating that the third area comprises: representations of at least one and less than all of sub-steps preceding/following the selected sub-step. The system as described would leave no elements if the selected element was the first element or the case as shown in figure 3 where one preceding element "approved Portal" is the preceding element and the only element, making it both at least one, but yet all, which is contrary to what is taught by the claims.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 1-6, 8, 10-24, 26, and 28-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Marpe et al., Patent #6,671,693, hereinafter Marpe.

7. With regard to claim 1, which teaches a first area comprising a representation of steps, a second area comprising a representation of sub-steps, and a third area comprising a representation of a selected sub-step, Marpe teaches, in column 13, line 1 through column 14, line 15 and in figures 2-4, a system in which chevrons are used to delaminate steps in a particular task. These steps can comprise sub-steps in any number of layers (see column 13, line 61 through column 14, line 15). With regard to claim 1, which teaches the third area comprising a representation of the selected sub-element and the instructions for performing the sub-step, Marpe teaches, in column 13, lines 35-50 and in figure 3, the current highlighted step having a defining section which provides information related to the selected topic. With regard to claim 1, which teaches the third area comprising representations of at least one and less than all of the sub-steps preceding and following the selected sub-step, Marpe teaches, in column 51,

lines 32-53 and in figures 18 and 19, the Navigation Chevron (the chevron containing the broader subject matter and its corresponding sub elements) not being displayed therefor providing a subset of the nearest relative information.

8. With regard to claims 2 and 20, which teach representation of the one of the plurality of steps indicating that the plurality of sub-steps correspond to the one of the plurality of steps, Marpe teaches, in column 13, lines 9-13, an indication by color, or some other identifying mark, showing the topic relating to the particular discrete phase chevron.

9. With regard to claims 3 and 21, which teach the representation of the selected sub-step in the third area indicating that the instructions correspond to the selected sub-step, Marpe teaches, in column 13, lines 35-40, the discrete phase chevron that is related to the current knowledge database topic page is highlighted.

10. With regard to claims 4, 14, 16, 18, and 22, which teach the representations of the non-selected sub-step in the third area not indicating that the instructions correspond to the selected sub-step, Marpe teaches, in column 13, lines 35-40, the discrete phase chevron that is related to the current knowledge database topic page is highlighted leaving the others in standard font.

11. With regard to claims 5 and 23, which teach the first and second area being not displayed simultaneously, Marpe teaches, in column 13, line 65 through column 14, line 15 and figures 3-6, the nesting of discrete phase chevrons and the figures all only show one discrete phase chevron displayed at a time.

12. With regard to claims 6 and 24, which teach the third area being simultaneously displayed with the first area, Marpe teaches, in column 13, lines 35-40 and figure 3, the Knowledge Base and the discrete phase chevrons displayed simultaneously on the display.

13. With regard to claims 8 and 26, which teach the first and second area being displayed simultaneously, Marpe teaches, in column 13, lines 35-40 and figure 3, the Navigation Chevron and the discrete phase chevrons displayed simultaneously on the display.

14. With regard to claims 10 and 28, which teach the third area comprising a selectable graphic, wherein selection of the graphic results in display of the second area, Marpe teaches, in column 20, lines 51-60 and in figure 3, the display of a back button, which if the first display would provide the previous display, the second area, Main Screen display.

15. With regard to claims 11 and 29, which teach representation of the plurality of steps are displayed in association with one or more of the plurality of elements, Marpe teaches, in column 13, line 1, through column 14, line 15, the representation of the steps being displayed with its related connection to other elements.

16. With regard to claims 12 and 30, which teach representations of the plurality of sub-steps are displayed in association with one or more of the plurality of elements, Marpe teaches, in column 13, line 1, through column 14, line 15, the representation of the sub-steps being displayed with its related connection to other elements.

17. With regard to claim 13, which teaches a computer readable medium comprising: a first area comprising a representation of steps, a second area comprising a representation of sub-steps, and a third area comprising a representation of a selected sub-step, Marpe teaches, in column 13, line 1 through column 14, line 15 and in figures 2-4, a system in which chevrons are used to delaminate steps in a particular task. These steps can comprise sub-steps in any number of layers (see column 13, line 61 through column 14, line 15). With regard to claim 13, which teaches the third area comprising a representation of the selected sub-element and the instructions for performing the sub-step, Marpe teaches, in column 13, lines 35-50 and in figure 3, the current highlighted step having a defining section which provides information related to the selected topic. With regard to claim 13, which teaches the third area comprising representations of at least one and less than all of the sub-steps preceding and following the selected sub-step, Marpe teaches, in column 51, lines 32-53 and in figures 18 and 19, the Navigation Chevron (the chevron containing the broader subject matter and its corresponding sub elements) not being displayed therefor providing a subset of the nearest relative information.

18. With regard to claim 15, which teaches a method of providing project management comprising: a first area comprising a representation of steps, a second area comprising a representation of sub-steps, and a third area comprising a representation of a selected sub-step, Marpe teaches, in column 13, line 1 through column 14, line 15 and in figures 2-4, a system in which chevrons are used to delaminate steps in a particular task. These steps can comprise sub-steps in any

number of layers (see column 13, line 61 through column 14, line 15). With regard to claim 15, which teaches the third area comprising a representation of the selected sub-element and the instructions for performing the sub-step, Marpe teaches, in column 13, lines 35-50 and in figure 3, the current highlighted step having a defining section which provides information related to the selected topic. With regard to claim 15, which teaches the third area comprising representations of at least one and less than all of the sub-steps preceding and following the selected sub-step, Marpe teaches, in column 51, lines 32-53 and in figures 18 and 19, the Navigation Chevron (the chevron containing the broader subject matter and its corresponding sub elements) not being displayed therefor providing a subset of the nearest relative information.

19. With regard to claim 17, which teaches an apparatus for managing a project comprising: a processor (see column 3, lines 1-21 and figure 1), a display (see column 3, lines 1-21 and figure 1), a storage device (see column 3, lines 1-21 and figure 1), a first area comprising a representation of steps, a second area comprising a representation of sub-steps, and a third area comprising a representation of a selected sub-step, Marpe teaches, in column 13, line 1 through column 14, line 15 and in figures 2-4, a system in which chevrons are used to delaminate steps in a particular task.

These steps can comprise sub-steps in any number of layers (see column 13, line 61 through column 14, line 15). With regard to claim 17, which teaches the third area comprising a representation of the selected sub-element and the instructions for performing the sub-step, Marpe teaches, in column 13, lines 35-50 and in figure 3, the current highlighted step having a defining section which provides information related to



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the selected topic. With regard to claim 17, which teaches the third area comprising representations of at least one and less than all of the sub-steps preceding and following the selected sub-step, Marpe teaches, in column 51, lines 32-53 and in figures 18 and 19, the Navigation Chevron (the chevron containing the broader subject matter and its corresponding sub elements) not being displayed therefor providing a subset of the nearest relative information.

20. With regard to claim 19, which teaches a first area comprising a representation of steps, a representation of sub-steps, and a representation of a selected sub-step, Marpe teaches, in column 13, line 1 through column 14, line 15 and in figures 2-4, a system in which chevrons are used to delaminate steps in a particular task. These steps can comprise sub-steps in any number of layers (see column 13, line 61 through column 14, line 15). With regard to claim 19, which teaches the third area comprising a representation of the selected sub-element and the instructions for performing the sub-step, Marpe teaches, in column 13, lines 35-50 and in figure 3, the current highlighted step having a defining section which provides information related to the selected topic. With regard to claim 19, which teaches the third area comprising representations of at least one and less than all of the sub-steps preceding and following the selected sub-step, Marpe teaches, in column 51, lines 32-53 and in figures 18 and 19, the Navigation Chevron (the chevron containing the broader subject matter and its corresponding sub elements) not being displayed therefor providing a subset of the nearest relative information.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

21. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

22. Claims 7, 9, 25, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marpe and Walden et al., Patent #6,456,303, hereinafter Walden.

23. With regard to claims 7 and 25, Marpe teaches a system in which 3 screens defining an information hierarchy can be displayed simultaneously; however, Marpe doesn't teach an ability to show only the information window. Walden teaches a system of displaying a hierarchical relationship between elements and sub elements along with a corresponding information screen, as did Marpe, but further teaches, the ability to hide the hierarchical display leaving only the information screen displayed (see column 7, line 52 through column 8, line 13 and figures 8 and 9). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Marpe and Walden before him at the time the invention was made to modify system of Marpe to include the navigational hide, as did Walden. One would have been motivated to make such a combination because this would make help information easier to use.

24. With regard to claims 9 and 27, Marpe teaches a system in which 3 screens defining an information hierarchy can be displayed simultaneously; however, Marpe doesn't teach an ability to show only the information window. Walden teaches a system of displaying a hierarchical relationship between elements and sub elements along with

a corresponding information screen, as did Marpe, but further teaches, the ability to hide the hierarchical display leaving only the information screen displayed (see column 7, line 52 through column 8, line 13 and figures 8 and 9). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Marpe and Walden before him at the time the invention was made to modify system of Marpe to include the navigational hide, as did Walden. One would have been motivated to make such a combination because this would make help information easier to use.

### ***Conclusion***

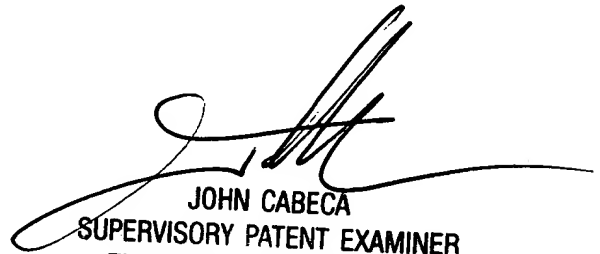
25. The prior art made of record on form PTO-892 and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111(c) to consider these references fully when responding to this action. The documents cited therein teach systems for providing project organization through multiple displays of hierarchically stored information.

26. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dennis G Bonshock whose telephone number is (703) 305-4668. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

27. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (703) 308-3116. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

28. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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